



CFSG seeks to drive policy to improve the health and welfare of cats and dogs in England as well as developing best practice for the sector and sharing resources

CFSG is comprised of key stakeholder representing charity, trade and veterinary and we work closely with the Government on all issues relating to cats and dogs.



Government Policy Work

- Licensing of Activities Involving Animal Regs review (LAIAR)
- Import ban on puppies under 6 months and mutilations
- Traceability and improvements to microchipping systems
- Tackling Canine Fertility Clinics & updating Veterinary Surgeons Act

Other Work

- Driving the support for a registration system for dog breeders
- Improving standards for cat breeding
- Setting best practice for dog walkers and pet groomers
- Preventing disease outbreak and health risks from imports

KEY WORKSTREAMS

LAIAR Review

CFSG worked with DEFRA on the guidance in 2017 and so welcomed the opportunity to also work on the 5 year impact assessment. We have held a number of meeting with wider stakeholders across industry and welfare to set out where we think the regulations have worked well and where they need improving and what the wide impact on animal welfare has been. This will continue to be a priority piece of work

Registration

LAIAR has not covered all animal activities and CFSG believes there is good reason to include a registration system for wider activities including dog walkers and non-licensed breeders. We have set out how this would work and ultimately it would help to provide full traceability across breeding and wider activities without being too heavy handed. We have delivered the case to DEFRA for consideration.

Rescue & Rehoming

Having seen data from local authorities and the RSPCA on enforcement cases against rescue and re-homing sanctuaries there is a case for welfare conditions and licensing for these operations to help to deliver a more consistent and clear welfare approach and support best practice. CFSG has drafted these conditions and DEFRA have committed to a consultation soon.

Cat Breeding

With the increase in hybrid cat breeding and more kittens being sold online, CFSG has undertaken work on best practice for the breeding of kittens. Working with Cats Protection and GCCF we also want to tackle the increase of mutilations for cats like declawing. We believe cat breeding could be included under the licensing regulations.

Canine Fertility Clinics

Canine Fertility Clinics have been a high profile issue and CFSG supports NatureWatch's campaign whilst also having set its own position and working to get Government to recognise the need to update the Veterinary Surgeon's Act and consider using the licensing system under LAIAR to tackle the proliferation of clinics and bad practice.

Broader Work on CFSG's Radar

Microchipping- CFSG worked on compulsory microchipping of cats and also the need for a single point of access for checking microchip data. We have worked closely with DEFRA on the review of the compulsory microchipping regulations and they have been seeking to tackle some of the issues around ensuring it works effectively. We hope to see an improved system coming forward that will make it easier and faster for microchip data to be retrieved and pets reunited with owners.

Target Operating Model - The UK Government has set out its Target Operating Model for the institution of border import controls and has sought feedback from CFSG. Leaving the EU provided some opportunities to improve the welfare of cats and dogs but also to tackle some of the health concerns of imported animals. CFSG is driving the need for 100% checks on dogs and cats as well as ensuring the welfare requirements at BCPs can be met.

Dog Safety - CFSG worked closely with the DEFRA team on a Dog Safety campaign this summer to keep children safe around dogs. This work included a set of infographics and communication tools and working with partners in health and social care to get the messages out more widely.

Dog Breeding – CFSG has written A Code of Practice on Dog Breeding and Guidance on Dog Conformation and our members are now involved in the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare working groups to improve dog breeding including using our documents for a Code of Practice on Dog Breeding as a statutory document under the Animal Welfare Act which we will put forward to DEFRA for consideration.

